

Westfield PTO Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, September 13, 2016

CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER SARA MISHLER

In Attendance: Ali Horsley, Sylvia Shannon, Michelle Bovinet, Kristi Bell, Sara Mishler, Colleen Bakker, Ben Young, Rachelle Ray, Erica Arganbright, Amy Robertson, Kari Titus, Tara Dirks, Angie Roling, Candy Smith, Dawan Wonick, Bird Gingler, Stephanie Nye, Susie Scott, Kim Bauer, Kari Whitlow, Deb Wegmann, Nicole Glau, Sarika Bhakta, Lisa Comer, Michelle Langston, Michele Infanger, Jennifer Novak, Angie Trenary, Ed Rogers, Jessica Valestin

Meeting called to order and May minutes were approved.

Featured Speaker Jenny Novak

Mrs. Novak is a 5th grade teacher at Westfield and part of the team implementing the new Positive Behavior Interventions and Support Programs (PBIS) at Westfield. She feels this program is off to a great start this school year. This program emphasizes positive behaviors resulting in a positive culture at Westfield.

The kids will refer to this program as ROAR. We are Westfield, hear us ROAR (Respectful, Organized, Aim High, Responsible). The Westfield Staff is doing an incentive system with the students. Teachers give out tickets for positive behavior they witness during the week. Students put those tickets into a large container in the cafeteria. When enough tickets are collect the entire school gets rewarded. The first reward is a school wide Dance Party. This will take place Friday, September 23th. The goal is to have consistent expectations/rules coming from all staff members. A Matrix of the behavioral expectations Westfield is focusing on is coming home in your family folder. This program is new and will be expanded and customized to truly benefit Westfield Students and Staff.

Principle Report Ed Rogers

What a great start to the beginning of the school year! Thank you to all those that volunteered the first week of school. There are currently 421 students enrolled at Westfield. This is the lowest enrollment in several years. Mr. Rogers expects that number to grow over the next couple of weeks. With the expansion, we will be adding about a 100 new students next year. The district boundary plan from 2014 is posted on-line but has not official been approved. Mr. Rogers is not expecting major changes to this plan.

Mr. Rogers quickly discussed the districts proposed long-term plan. This plan needs to be approved by the board and will take several year to implement. Below is a quick summary:

Linn Mar Elementary Schools Pre-K/K-4th Grades
Oak Ridge and New Building 5th-7th Grades
Excelsior 8th-9th Grades

High School 10th-12th Grades

Please visit the Linn-Mar District Website for more details.

Financial Report Angie Ternary

9/13/2016 - PTO Account Balance \$15,317.84

Major expenses paid since May meeting:

-\$6,000 library furniture

-\$200 Mr. Brandt display case

-\$550 Gym Equipment

-\$277 First grade journals

-\$1,214 classroom funds

For a more detailed expense report please visit the PTO website

Write One for Westfield Update - 107 families have donated to the Write One For Westfield Campaign. After adding matching funds (not yet received) and on-line donations our total raised is \$13,870. We have done great but we can do better!!! We still have to reach 233 family please help spread the word!!! We will accept donations all year but hope to wrap up the campaign at the Back to School Bash in order to budget accurately.

The goal of \$20,000 for the check writing campaign was discussed. Last year during the May PTO meeting a \$17,000 goal was recommended. It was proposed that each family donate \$50 to reach the goal. Dawn Wonick had concerns that some parents might see the change to \$20,000 as misleading. The executive team evaluated these numbers over the summer and decided to make a change to the goal but not the overall budget. Last year we had less than 200 families donate to Westfield. In theory, getting all 340 families to donate is great but not realistic. We added \$10 to our per family goal to be sure that we raise enough to cover what we budgeted for based on the number of family's that donated last year. If PTO raises additional funds above the \$17,000 proposed in May that would be great and would allow PTO to fund additional large requests that come from staff. If PTO raises \$17,000 we still meet our budget and are not in a position to cut current programs or totally deplete our funds going into the following year. Any significant changes to the budget will be discussed and voted on at future PTO meetings.

Committee Reports

Stride for Pride Michelle Langston

This event lets kids walk/run around the school parking lot during their specials time. It will take place Friday, September 16th. Come cheer on your student or volunteer to help! We still have a couple volunteer openings. Thank you to Midway Outdoor Equipment, The Potters Obsession, Hyvee, Tim Nye with IA realty, Level 10 Apparel, Learning Rx and Energy Data Resources for

helping the PTO provide every student with a t-shirt to remember this fun day. Mr. Brant designed the shirts with the ROAR theme to tie into the Schools PBIS initiative.

Back to School Bash Kristi Bell

It will take place Friday, September 23, 2016 from 5:30-7:30pm. This is a fun family event. If the weather cooperates we hope to have games, inflatables and the dunk tank outside. The food (Pizza and drinks), face painting and photo booth will be set-up inside. With the exception of the food everything is free for your family!!! The dunk tank is available to those who donated over \$50 to the Write One for Westfield Campaign. Each child in your family gets a ball for every \$50 donated. We still need volunteers to work this event. We don't want to cancel games so please sign-up. Teens can also sign-up for service hours.

New Business Sara Mishler

Staff Funding Request – A Motion passed to purchase the Raz Kids Reading Program. The cost is \$712.50.

There was a discussion about the dunk tank for back to school bash. We will get two dunk tanks as long as we have enough volunteers to take the plunge! Each tank is \$165.

We discussed Culver's Night that will take place on Tuesday, September 20th. Westfield gets 10% of the sales. We discussed doing that with other restaurants. PTO will look into options and present at next PTO meeting.

Announcements/Reminders

Stride for Pride Friday, September 16th

Culvers Night Tuesday, September 20th ****4PM –CLOSE****

Back to School Bash Friday, September 23rd ****CONTACT KRISTI BELL TO VOLUNTEER****

Homecoming Parade Thursday, September 29th

Blood Drive Thursday, October 6th ****SIGN UP FOR YOUR TIME SLOT NOW****

Parent Teacher Conference Tuesday, October 11th

Next PTO Meeting Tuesday, October 18th

America Reads Day Thursday, October 20h

Meeting Adjourned by Sara Mishler

Respectively Submitted by Colleen Bakker and Kim Bauer, Co-Secretary's